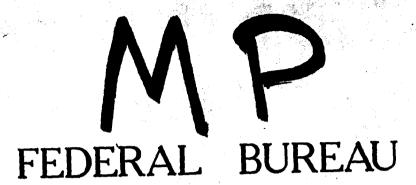
# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

## SUBJECT: COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

FILE: <u>100-MP-6239</u>

#### **II. S. Department of Instice**

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE



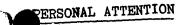
of

### INVESTIGATION

	Bureau Fil	e Number				
		n de la servición de la servic				
			٠.			
			1 ×			
See also Nos.			:		*	
				<u> </u>		<u> </u>
				<del></del> -		

Serials

JUME NUMBER





#### Nederal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Instice Washington 25, D. C.



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

June 30, 1945

C LETTER NO. 61

SAC

ALBANY
ANCHORAGE
ATLANTA
BALTIMORE
BIRMINGHAM
BOSTON
BUFFALO
BUTTE
CHARLOTTE
CHICAGO
CINCINNATI

CLEVELAND

DALLAS

DENVER

DES MOINES
DETROIT
EL PASO
GRAND RAPIDS
HONOLULU
HOUSTON
HUNTINGTON
INDIANAPOLIS
JACKSON
KANSAS CITY
KNOXVILLE
LITTLE ROCK
LOS ANGELES
LOUISVILLE

MEMPHIS
MIAMI
MILWAUKEE
NEWARK
NEW HAVEN
NEW ORLEANS
NEW YORK
NORFOLK
OKLAHOMA CITY
OMAHA
PHILADELPHIA
PHOENIX
PITTSBURGH
PORTLAND
PROVIDENCE

RICE OND
ST. UIS
ST. UIS
ST. UIL
SAL AKE CITY
SAN TONIO
SAN GO
SAN GISCO
SAN SAVA
SEAT
SIOUX FALLS
SPRINGER D
SYRACTOR
WASHINGTON, D. OUANTIOO

ALL INFORMATION DATE 3.15.99

RE:

COMMUNIST POLITICAL ASSOCIATION -

GOVERNMENT GROUP

At the present time the Washington Field Office is the Office of Origin in a case entitled "Communist Political Association -- Government Group; Internal Security - C." This investigation is being handled separately from the General Communist Political Association investigation. The purpose is to develop information concerning the organizational character and activity of this group. From available information, the group operating within the Government is referred to by the Communist Political Association as the "Government Group." Its activities are separate and distinct from the general activities of the Communist Political Association and are more in the category of the activities of the White Collar or Professional Groups. Investigation is being carried on from an organizational standpoint and no leads are being set out therein concerning individual members of the group.

In the event information is developed by the Washington Field Office concerning the transfer of a member of this group from Washington, D. C. to any other city, the interested office will be immediately notified. It is then desired that preferred attention be given to the activities of the transferee, particularly if he or she is still in the employ of the United States Government. Immediate consideration should be given to the possibility of physical and technical surveillances in an effort to develop information concerning a similar group in the veillances in an effort to develop information concerning a similar group in the tricular city involved. In the event your Office has any definite information concerning the present existence of such a group in your field office territory, the Bureau and the Washington Rieta Office should be immediately that your field office territory.

Searcher U.S. Department Issued

For possible future ase in connection with letters case a code name has been adopted, which is as follows: "CO Communist Government Group. This code name should be used letters and teletypes emanating from your office in connections."

COGOG PAUL MINNESOTA

100-6239-

and F

SAC LETTER NO. 61 Series 1945 6-30-45

The Bureau considers this case of extreme inportance and instructs that any investigation conducted in connection therewith be handled in a highly discreet manner. The existence of such a case should not be promiscuously discussed.

Very truly yours,

Ce. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SAC, St. Paul

COGOG

Reference is made to SAC Letter #61, Series 1945, dated June 30, 1945 in the above-captioned matter.

The St. Paul Field Office has no information concerning the present existence of a government group of the CPA.

According, this case is being considered RUC'd.

Pe

AND:R8 100-6239

oc: Kashington Field

HEREIN IT INCLASSIFIED DATE 3-15-99 BY JOH BIAT PAN

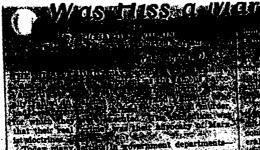
100-6239-6

MINNEAPOLIS STAR

Marent Book Co Book Co Book

FBI-MINNEAPOLIS

FEB 2 1950



ist stoctrine in the country of the not them in important posts lifer Siles was guilty of be-ecrets to the Soviet Union

"It heartened us that he stood up in court after his conviction and before he was sentenced, and again esserted that he was not guilty and would show that Whittaker Chambers committed perjury by type-writer.

writer.
We do not know whether it was wise for Secretary of State Acheson, in his official capacity, to say what he did in backing him, But it heartened us that he said he would not turn his back on Alger Hiss and we will not turn our backs either.

"After all, if His goes to fall, it probably will be only for two or three years, and we are convinced that in the end he will square himself."

The people who held these views believe Hiss was protecting some third person. Who? A mem-ber of his family? And why? They give no. answers to those que

In a radio interview Saturday night, Chambers said that he wanted to "spike" a rumor that Alger Hiss Hiss' accuser said was shielding some other person. that he wanted to renew his offer to take a lie detector test, provided it was under auspices that







Wallace Wallace Fill and that he would a would satisfy the FHI, and that he would answer a chestion about whether there was anything, peculiar" in his relationing with Hise or any members of Hise brailly. Chambers said that the full took for his relations with Hise was told in court. Chambers put Fract emphasis on these points because of the result has the Hise was intelding someonal that relationships with some member of Hise families was involved. Thembers gratement was made family was involved. Chambers statement was made deliberately, in an effort to counteract stories now being told by friends of Hiss to "explain" why Hiss story was not accepted by the juries in two trials

Those who have believed all along that His was ulity are recalling a famous case in 1943, new t forgetten but, these anti-Hiss people say, -lm prophetic.

It was the case of the late Dr. William A. Wirt, superintendent of the Gary, Ind., schools. Dr. Wirt accepted an assignment in the office of education of the department of the interior in 1933, and the talk he heard among New Dealers shocked him.

he heard among New Dealers shocked him.

He wrote a treatise which he sent around to a number of friends, charging that President Roosevelt's "brain trust" was seeking to overthrow the American social and economic system. This was not an unfamiliar charge. But Dr. Wirt added to it that these left-wingers regarded President Roosevelt as only the "Kerenaks" of the revolution" who must be kept in the White-House until a dictator could be installed. (Kerenaks headed the Russian government from the overthrow of traction in 1917 until Lenin and Trotsky took over.

and Trotaky took over.

Dr. Wirt's charges were brought to the attention
of the house investigle commerce committee by

Dr. Wirt testified that his be ary junta inside the government stemme dinner party at the Mirginia home of Alice an employe of the office of education. an employe of the office of education. Among who attended according to Dr. Wirt, were law Todd, the Washington correspondent of the to Russian news agenty, Tast. Devid Cushman economist and one of Harold L. Icker favor Hildegarde Kneeland and Mary Waylor of the ment of agriculture, and others.

Dr. Rexford G. Tugwell, unders ture, was widely quoted as supporting revi principles. Most of the quotes attributed to were actually from a book he had written a before. He was a favorite of President Ro and a member of the original "brain trust." The statement about Roosevelt being marely Kerensky, who would be followed by a Stalin in I

White House, was attributed to Todd.

All parties to this affair, except Wirt, denied an

such revolutionary ideas. They said they had, indeed, gone to the dinner party, but that Dr. Wirt had done most of the talking. 4. 15

A number of things are known new which we net considered important then.

Miss Barrows was not only an employe of the office of education, she was publicity director for the "League for Peace and Democracy." This organiza-League for Peace and Democracy." This organiza-tion, now out of existence, was later standed as the chief Communist front organization in the United cause community from organization.

States and was cited by the attorney general as subversive organization. Miss Barrows name has been mentioned many times by the infamerican activities committee,

Todd's status as the representative of the Russian news agency appeared then, when in just recognizing the Soviet regime, 16 be aim of a correspondent for the press service of nation. In more recent years Todd has be nation. In more recent properties, from meetings of American correspondents, public officials speak off-the-record; the restrict these officials will not speak trankly presented.

David Cushman Coyle has held many gov positions and is now connected with the Cal mittee in the house of representatives inv American monopolies.

The junts which Dr. Wirt described a

focus in the liberals and left-wingers of the dement of agriculture, under Rex Tugwell and I A Wallace. The name of Hiss was not mentioned Dr. Wirt and was probably unknown to him, by was in this same atmosphere that Hiss began administrative work in government.

The same people who laughed most at Wirt at ridiculed him in 1934 are those who today cannot believe Hise guilty—with the exception of those who have changed their minds in the past 15 years.

Hiss was, at least, a part of the ideological fet ment going on in the department of agriculture









when, under Dr. Tugwell and Jerome Frank, now a United States circuit judge, it attracted so many of the intellectuals. He was one of many distinction non-farmers in the farm movement.

non-farmers in the farm movement.

A Baltimore-born, Harvard-educated lawyer, Hiss was brought into the agriculture department by Frank. He associated with Frank and with Lee Pressman, a Communist sympathizer who later became general counsel of the CIO. They drew intellectual stimulation from Felix Frankfurter, then head of the Harvard law school and now an associate justice of the United States supreme court. Frankfurter was a character witness for Hiss in his first trial.

Among the Washington left-wingers of the day was Dean Acheson, now secretary of state. He had been law clerk to the late liberal supreme court justice Louis D. Brandeis.

They all traveled together, these left-wing intellectuals, in the early days of the New Deal. Washington was filled with them and they were in the saddle. They dined in Georgetown and in restored Virginia and Maryland farm houses and talked brilliantly of the brave new world to come. They came from the universities and they were filled with the liberal spirit. They admired Russia, and Russian things, and they were Eohemian in spirit—emancipated, of course, from the stuffy habits of thought of the American middle class.

This all seemed American enough, if considerably left of center, until Whittaker Chambers came along and charged in effect that a Communist "apparatus"

ficials had attained high places and were themselves part of the Communist apparatus aiming approximately at doing just what the discredited Dr. Wirt had charged.

Many remnants of this old left-wing group remain in government. Many later recruits to federal office hold the same views. A great many of them certainly have had no connection with a Communist "apparatus." But they knew people, like Hiss, who were so charged, and they can't or won't believe the charges are true.

"It shocks the innocent among them to think that they were on the fringes of Soviet Communist activity, so they reject the idea. The only way they can completely reject it is to believe that Hisa was not guilty, that he is the victim of national hysteria and a sinister accuser, namely Whittaker Chambers.

So last week, when Dean Acheson summoned the Sermon on the Mount and Christian ethics to his support of Alger Hiss, the left-wingers in Washington took new hope. They took up the Biblical text to which the secretary of state had pointed:

"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

For years to come there will be strong movements among the left-wingers to vindicate Hiss and turn the tables on Chambers, who was at one time very deep in the shadow of a perjury charge himself. Sizeable funds were contributed for the Hiss de-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to: WIT FBI MILWAUKEE URGENT SAC MINNEAPOLIS BUREAU FORMER' CERTAIN LETTERS ALLEGING SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN ACHESON WAS FORMERLY ADVISED IN A COMMUNIST PARTY CELL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.. THE IE TIERS WERE COLORADO EXCHANGED BETWEEN ANTI--COMMUNIST LEAGUE, ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO, AND AND RABID ANTI--COMMUNIST AND ANTI--COMMUNIST SOCIALIST; COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO. ABOUT ONE MONTH RECEIVED THESE LETTERS THRU THE MAIL IN NEW YORK CITY THREE MONTHS AGO AND HAD PREVIOUSLY AGO. PERTINENT PORTIONS FIRST LETTER DATED MARCH TWENTYSIX, SET OUT QUOTE THANKS FOR NINETEEN FIFTYONE, YOUR LETTERS OF MARCH SEVENTEEN AND I NOTE THAT DEAN ACHESON WAS A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL CELL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH OPERATED OUT OF AN OLD VIOLIN STUDED AT ONE FIVE NAUGHT THREE CONNECTICUT AVENUE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. UNQUOTE AND THAT QUOTES MOTHER THE SPECIAL COURIER SENT LATER WAS THIS CELL WAS COMPOSED OF SUCH PEOPLE AS JOHN ABT. SEARCHED END PAGE ONE Of nive 6

Approved:

Special Agent i

CONF

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Transmit the following Teletype message to: PAGE TWO PRESSMAN, ALGER HISS, NATHAN WITT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST CELLS ORGANIZED IN THE NATION-S CAPITOL UNQUOTE. QUOTE THIS I BE-LEIVE WAS IN NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR, AND FROM WHAT YOU SAY I ASSUME THAT ACHESON WAS A MEMBER OF THIS CELL AT THAT TIME. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG HE REMAINED, AS I BELEIVE YOU SAID WHEN YOU WERE HERE THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF SUCH CELLS AS LATE AS NINETEEN THIRTYNINE UNQUOTE. IN HIS REPLIES DATED APRIL QUOTE CONCERNING THE PERAGRAPH TWENTYSIXTH LAST, ON DEAN ACHESON, OF MARCH TWENTYSIX, I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE REMAINED A MEMBER OF THAT BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT I DO KNOW THAT HE WAS STILL A MEMBER OF THE PARTY ADVISED HE HAS NO IN NINETEEN THIRTYNINE UNQUOTE. OR OF AUTHENTICITY KNOWLEDGE OF RELIABLE OF OF INFORMATION SET OUT IN ABOVE LETTER. PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF THES LETTERS ARE BEING MADE BY PITTSBURGH. DENVER, STATE HAS NO INFORMATION REGARDING ACHESON OTHER THAN MADE AVAILABLE ORIGINAL LETTER FURNISHED DATED MARCH SEVENTEEN LAST, A COPY OF LETTER MARCH TWENTYSIX LAST AND THE ORIGINAL IETTER DATED APRIL TWENTYSIXTH LAST, ALL OF WHICH ARE QUOTED ABOVE. END PAGE TWO

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

27°2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE THREE SUPPLIED COPIES OF THESE LETTERS



AND LETTERS ARE

BEING FORWARDED TO BUREAU BY DENVER. INTERVIEW

OBTAL N

COMPLETE DETAILS. SUTEL BUREAU WITH COPIES TO DENVER.

END AND ACKN PLS OK FBI MP HEK



Special Agent in Charge

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONFESCULIET.

Transmit the following Teletype message to: CONFERENCE
(DO NOT SEND) 3:30 FM VJJ:CF DIRECTOR, FBI AND SACS, MILWAUKEE AND DENVER UR G E/N T
TEL TO MPIS THIS DATE. INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT
TO FURNISH SPECIFIC INFORMATION
LEAMINGTON HOTEL, MPLS. TO FORMUNIST PARTY.
REGARDING ACHESON AFFILIATION WITH COMMUNIST PARTY.
NATIONAL CONVENTION OF YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE HELD IN MAY NINETEEN FORTY
I CLUSED SESSION OF OFFICERS ELECT WAS HELD. AT THIS CLUSED MESITION
DURING A DISCUSSION OF COMMUNIST PARTY INFILTRATION INTO GOVERNMENT.
DURING A DISCUSSION OF COLLEGE CREATEST SUCCESS IN INFILTRATION WAS
ACCORDING TO
IN ACRICULTURE AND STATE DEPARTMENT. STATED, ACCORDING TO
OR CELL ESTABLISHED AT ONE FIVE NAUGHT THREE CONNECTACUL AVENUES
THAT FIRST CP CELL CONSISTED  WASHINGTON, D. C., SUPPOSEDLY A VIOLIN STUBIO. FURTHER THAT CELL CONSISTED
WASHINGTON, D. C. SUPPOSEDITA
OF JOHN ABST, HATHAN WITT, LEE PRESSMAN,
AND WOMAN, NAME UNABLE TO RECALL. STATED
BETWEEN CELL AND NATIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN
NEW YORK. DENIES EVER SAYING OR WRITING THAT DEAN ACHESON WAS PART
NEW YORK. DENIES EVER SAIING ON MAC WELL OF WAS
OF THIS COMMUNIST PARTY CELL. CLAIMS ALSO HE HAS NEVER MET OR WAS
3.15.99
CLASSIFIED BY SP4 bya PHO DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 3
CONFORMULAL
Ath.
1008
Approved: Sent // p M Per // Per // Sent // p M
CARLE ARCITU AM VONTO
100-6239-5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:



DA	CT	77	ĪΛ
	ITP.		

PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH ACHESON. DOES STATE THAT DURING SUMMER OF THIRTYSIX FOLLOWING MASS MEETING HELD AT HOTEL IN MILMAUKEE AT WHICH THEY LISTENED TO AN ENGLISH SPEAKING BROADCAST FROM SPAIN REGARDING ARMS EMBARGO ON SPAIN, A CLOSED MEETING WAS HELD AT WHICH TIME QUOTE DURING TIME SPANISH REPUBLIC WAS IN POWER, THE

REPUBLIC HAD ESTABLISHED A CORE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH INDIVIDUALS IN UNQUOTE. THAT THEY STATED, ACCORDING WASHINGTON, D. C./

CAN BE ASSURED THAT DEAN ACHESON, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, VITO MARCANTONIO STATES THIS WAS THE ONLY INSTANCE

WERE QUOTE OUR FRIENDS UNQUOTE. HE CAN REMEMBER THAT ACHESON HAD BEEN REFERRED TO BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE

STATES HE HAS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING DEAN

ACHESON BUT QUOTE FELT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE UNQUOTE THAT ACHESON WAS IN NINETEEN THIRTYNINE. HE STATES HE MEMBER UP TO TIME

WILL LEAVE MINNEAPOLIS HAS NO FACTS TO BACK UP THIS STATEMENT.

COMING WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR DELAVAN, WISCONSIN, IN CARE OF

WILL STAY AT DELAVAN THROUGH SUNDAY. WILL

Sent\_

MOTOR TO DENVER SUNDAY NEXT, EXPECTED TO ARRIVE DENVER BY WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER NINETERN NEXT. LETTER OF DETAILS FOLLOWS.

END

Approved:		 	
Approved.		 Chargo	

Special Agent in Charge

DIRECTOR, FBI

assissac, Minneapolis

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Reference is made to Milwaukee teletype to Minneapolis dated September 11, 1951, entitled

Secretary of State DEAN ACHESON was formerly in a Communist Party cell in Washington, D. C. These letters, according to information in the teletype, were exchanged between Communist League, Englewood, Colorado, and a rabid anti-Communist from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

the Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. to furnish specific information regarding ACHESON's affiliation with the Communist Party. that during a closed session which was conducted after the National Convention of the Young Communist League in May, 1957, the newly elected National Committee. on infiltration into the government.

As an illustration of this infiltration, according that they had penetrated into the offices of the Agriculture and State Departments. Stated that in Washington the Communist Party had powerful cells and had an infiltration of better than 2800 Communist Party members and fellow travelers.

According was very much perturbed during this discussion that the Communist Party had not penetrated far enough into the Army and Navy and there was a great need for the Young Communist League to join the R.O.T.C. with a view to make an attempt to enter either West Point or Annapolis.

Communist Party cell was started at 1503 Connecticut Avenue in a violin studio in 1933, and that the cell was made up predominately of graduates of eastern universities. According at this point, brought up the names of JOHN ABT, NATHAN WITT, LEE PRESSMAN, and an unidentified woman whose name does not recall, as being

VJJ: MIS cc - Milwaukee Denver Pittsburgh

しょ

**610** 

MR

DECLASSIFIED BY SPH bja PAN ON ~ 3 · 15 · 99

September 14, 1951

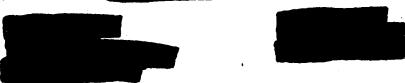
MEMO DIRECTOR, FBI

Re:

members of this particular cell. recalled that of the cell to the National Communist Party Office in New York. It was further recollection that ground work in the development of this Communist Party cell.

stated that the following individuals were present at this closed session:

part of this Communist Party cell. He claims also that he has never met or was personally acquainted with DEAN ACHESON. stated, however, that during the summer of 1936, following a mass meeting held at a hotel in Milwaukee, the name of which was unable to recall, a closed meeting was held at which time the following individuals were present:



listened to an English speaking broadcast from Spain regarding the Spanish situation and in particular the arms embargo on Spain. According to in the closed session discussion on aid to Spain and the arms embargo on Spain. He acvised those present that during the time the Spanish republic was in power, they had established a core of friendship with key individuals in the government in Washington, D. C. According to was at this point that made the statement that, "They can be assured that DEAN ACHESON, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT and VETO MARCANTONIO are our friends."

that ACHESON had been referred to by anyone in an official capacity with the Communist Party.

Insisted that this is the only reference he has ever made in any of his speeches or writings which would reflect on DEAN ACHESON.

Stated that he has no specific information regarding

September 15, 1951

MEMO DIRECTOR, FEI

Re:

DEAN ACHESON but "felt", to the best of his knowledge, that ACHESON was a member up to the time that the has no facts to back up this statement. In 1939. He further stated that he could not recall ever corresponding with any individuals regarding DEAN ACHESON.

ACHESON. The advised that he is unable to furnish any other information regarding DEAN ACHESON.

The Minnespolis Office refrained from making specific reference or any correspondence which possibly or any correspondence which possibly may have been conducted between the two inasmuch as the relationship between these two individuals was unknown.

denies ever corresponding with any individuals regarding DEAN ACHESON or ever making reference to DEAN ACHESON in any of his speeches or writings as being a member of the Communist Party cell in Washington.

enroute to Delavan, Wisconsin and will be in care of

According he will stay at Delavan, Wisconsin
through September 16, at which time he will continue on to Denver, Colorado
via sutomobile. He expects to arrive in Denver by Wednesday, September 19.

- REC

August 3, 1953

PIRECTOR, FBI (101-4300)

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-9006)

SECURITY MATTER - C PERJURY

Re WFO letter to the Director, July 14, 1953.

There is being enclosed for the Denver Office one copy of referenced letter requesting a reinterview of This is in connection with current investigation to locate additional witnesses who may be able to substantiate allegations that was a member of the Communist Party in the 1930's and 1940's.

A review of the Minneapolis files indicates that

Englewood, Colorado and is known
to the Penver Office.

in this city in the past, advised that Englewood, Colorado.

years has been engged in a nation-wide tour during the course of which he has given anti-communist lectures of a sensational nature. In February 1948, front of the Russian Embassy at Washington D.C. In May 1949.

at Denver, Colorado.

The interview with by SAS of the Kinnespolis
Office on September 11, 1951 was conducted
was in this area on a speaking engagement. The detailed
results of this interview were transmitted to the Bureau
by letter, copy to Denver, on September 15, 1951 captioned
A copy

is enclosed for the WFO for information.

The WFO has requested the interview with be handled expeditiously.

- R U C -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3.45.99 BY PA BY PARA
394651

RWM:won cc:Denver (Encl) WFO (101-607) (Fncl) MP 100-6239

Rt

100-6204-7

P36 P36